



# CONNECTICUT COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

An Alliance of the:  
Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference  
Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors  
Connecticut High School Coaches Association

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## Testimony Regarding

### Bill 456 – AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS

My name is **Fred Balsamo**, the **Executive Director of the Connecticut Coaching Education Program** which is an alliance of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (**CIAC**), Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (**CAAD**) and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (**CHSCA**).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Senator Lunney** and **Senator Gaffey** for their foresight in producing a bill which will protect the lives of children in our state. Other states that have enacted similar legislation did so as the result of a major injury or a fatality. It is encouraging to know the athletes in Connecticut are so well regarded. Today you will hear testimony from the three bodies, CIAC, CAAD and the CHSCA which represent the Connecticut Coaching Education Program, all giving testimony in support of Senate **Bill 456**. I have been working with coaches' education for over 25 years and this legislation is very timely and much needed.

We have always included extensive concussion education components in our 45 clock hour course required for new coaches entering the profession and have been working on a Concussion Education Module, along with the Connecticut Concussion Task Force for nearly a year, for coaches to utilize as ongoing professional development CEU's they use for reissuance of the 5 year renewable coaching permit. We recognize the importance of forewarning schools, coaches, parents and athletes about the dangers of concussions. Bill 456 emphasizes that importance and I wholeheartedly support **Bill 456 – AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS**.

Sincerely,

*Fred Balsamo*, CMAA

CCEP Executive Director